

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-32 (Cancelled)

33. (New) An apparatus comprising:

an interface to at least one wired client device and at least one wireless client device;

client-type determining logic to determine whether a client device requesting a connection is a wired client device or a wireless client device;

logic to perform a wired authentication function to establish the secure connection when it is

determined that the requesting client device is a wired client device; and

logic to perform a wireless authentication function to establish the secure connection when it is determined that the requesting client device is a wireless client device.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising an interface to transmit data to, and to receive data from, a server.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the logic to perform the wired authentication function comprises logic to perform authentication using a wired communication protocol, and wherein the logic to perform the wireless authentication function comprises logic to perform authentication using a wireless communication protocol.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the logic to perform the wired authentication function comprises logic to perform authentication using Secure Socket Layer (SSL) protocol and wherein the logic to perform the wireless authentication function comprises logic to perform authentication using Wireless Transport Layer Security (WTLS) protocol.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the logic to perform the wired authentication function and the logic to perform the wireless authentication function each comprises:

logic to determine if a requesting client device has requested authentication of the server; and

logic to transmit a server digital certificate for the server when it is determined that the requesting client device has requested authentication of the server.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the logic to perform the wired authentication function and the logic to perform the wireless authentication function each comprises:

logic to generate a request for a digital certificate from a requesting client device; and

logic to authenticate a digital certificate received from a client device.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the logic to perform the wired authentication function and the logic to perform the wireless authentication function each comprises:

logic to retrieve a client digital certificate using a Uniform Resource Locator received from the client device; and

logic to authenticate a retrieved client digital certificate.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the client-type determining logic comprises:

logic to determine a security protocol used for an encrypted request from a client device; and

logic to determine whether the requesting client device is a wired client device or a wireless client device in dependence upon the determined security protocol.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising:

logic to receive a client digital signature from the client device; and

logic to validate the received client digital signature.

42. (New) A method comprising:

receiving data from the at least one wired client device and the at least one wireless client device each requesting a secure connection with a server;

performing a wired authentication function to establish the secure connection with the wired client device; and

performing a wireless authentication function to establish the secure connection with the wireless client device.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein said performing the wired authentication function comprises performing authentication using a wired communication protocol and wherein the performing the wireless authentication function comprises performing authentication using a wireless communication protocol.

44. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein said performing the wired authentication function and said performing the wireless authentication function each comprises:

determining if a requesting client device has requested authentication of the server; and

transmitting a server digital certificate for the server when it is determined that the requesting client device has requested authentication of the server.

45. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein each of said performing the wired authentication function and said performing the wireless authentication function comprises:

generating a request for a digital certificate from a requesting client device; and

authenticating a digital certificate received from a client device.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein said authenticating a digital certificate includes verifying the validity period of the client digital certificate.

47. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein each of said performing the wired authentication function and said performing the wireless authentication function comprises:

retrieving a client digital certificate using a Uniform Resource Locator received from the client device; and

authenticating a retrieved client digital certificate.

48. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising:

determining a security protocol used for an encrypted request from a client device; and

determining whether the requesting client device is a wired client device or a wireless client device in dependence upon the determined security protocol.

49. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising:

receiving a client digital signature from a client device; and

validating the received client digital certificate.

50. (New) An article comprising a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions that if executed cause a machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving data from the at least one wired client device and the at least one wireless client device each requesting a secure connection with a server;

performing a wired authentication function to establish the secure connection with the wired client device; and

performing a wireless authentication function to establish the secure connection with the wireless client device.

51. (New) The article of claim 50, wherein the instructions to perform the wired authentication function further comprise instructions that if executed cause the machine to perform operations comprising authentication using Secure Socket Layer (SSL) protocol, and wherein the instructions to perform the wireless authentication function further comprise instructions that if executed cause the

machine to perform operations comprising authenticating using Wireless Transport Layer Security (WTLS) protocol.

52. (New) The article of claim 50, wherein the instructions to perform each of the wired authentication function and the wireless authentication function comprise instructions that if executed cause the machine to perform operations comprising:
generating a request for a digital certificate from a requesting client device; and
authenticating a digital certificate received from a client device.